

U.S. concerned at Cypriot action

WASHINGTON, March 21 (AP). — The U.S. State Department said today it has expressed concern to the Cyprus government over the recent decision of the Cyprus Supreme Court to reduce substantially the prison sentences handed down to two men implicated in the 1974 assassination of U.S. Ambassador Roger Davies. Department spokesman John Tratner acknowledged that the Department normally does not comment on court decisions but made an exception in this case because it involved an act of terrorism against an American ambassador. "Under the court ruling, the two convicted men will be set free next August after they will have served only 18 months of their nominal seven-and-a-half-year sentences," Tratner said.

Volume 3, Number 708

As More search continues

Red Brigades demand self representation

ROME, March 21 (R). — Thousands of Italian policemen and soldiers, aided by experts from West Germany and Britain, hunted for kidnapped former prime minister Aldo Moro today amid threatening signs of a breakthrough.

The Italian constitution insists that all citizens must be defended in court by a lawyer. Red Brigades founder Renato Curcio and some of his fellow accused warned the court in a noisy outburst yesterday that Signor Moro would be brought to "peoples' justice" by their comrades.

Curcio's long-time private lawyer, Signor Giandomenico Guido, today quoted him as saying: "They give us the lawyers. They tell us how to be defended. It is a violent violation of our rights and we will answer with violence."

The defence lawyers were appointed after the guerrillas refused to recognise "bourgeois justice" and demanded the right to defend themselves.

Their plea was likely to be rejected by the chief prosecutor but Judge Guido Barbero will have to consult his jury before deciding whether to seek a ruling from the constitutional court -- which could delay the trial for several months.

In Turin, where 15 Red Brigades' leaders are on trial for forming an armed band to subvert the state, court-appointed defence lawyers tried to persuade the judge that the extreme-left guerrillas should defend themselves as they demanded.

Citing international conventions on human rights in support of their case, most of the

defence lawyers insisted that the bri-

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JORDAN TIMES

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It's hard to fit a cluster bomb in a homeland

Mr. Jimmy Carter, who is the President of the United States, and Mr. Menachem Begin, who is the Prime Minister of Israel, are holding talks in Washington today, and we are frankly worried that after these talks are over it may be difficult to remember who is the president of the United States and who is the prime minister of Israel. The lines between the political sovereignty and allegiances of the two peoples of Israel and the United States are very blurred already. We hope that this week's talks in Washington do not complicate the matter further.

We have, however, some suggestions for President Carter, a man we know to be essentially an honest person imbued with a true sense of moral values, however much this has to be covered up and muddled when he deals with Israel. We suggest to Mr. Carter, in his capacity as the President of the United States, that he ask Premier Begin whether Mr. Begin plans to keep using his American-made and American-supplied cluster bombs in south Lebanon to the point where so many Palestinians are killed that there is nobody left to put in the homeland that Mr. Carter says is required to solve the Palestinian problem. If Mr. Carter can have this clarified, we would be grateful, as would many Palestinians, we assure him.

We also suggest to President Carter, as have two of his American congressmen, that the State Department closely examine whether Israel's use of American arms in invading south Lebanon is not a violation of the terms by which American arms are sent to Israel. If the Turks are angry because of American restrictions on arms deliveries to them because they used American arms to invade Cyprus, we think the same principles that promote anger should be applied in the case of Israel. Or is Israel exempt from the principles that govern the transfer of American arms to the rest of the world?

If, after the talks with Mr. Begin, Mr. Carter still acts and speaks like the President of the United States, and not the rabbi of the Western world, then he would do everybody a service by answering these questions.

Cluster bombs are nasty things. Homelands are nice things. But the two are not compatible.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Al Ra'i and Al Dustour Tuesday commented on the tenth anniversary of the Battle of Karameh when the Jordanian army, aided by Palestinian commandos, was able to defeat, with heavy losses, an Israeli invading force which tried to cross the Jordan River.

"Ten years ago today, the Jordanian army shattered the myth of the invincible Israeli soldier," AL RA'I says in an editorial. The Karameh battle was the first after the June 1967 defeat in which the Jordanian soldier and the Palestinian commando stood shoulder to shoulder to defend Jordan's sacred soil, and restore Arab honour. Indeed, the battle was the true antecedent of the victorious battle of 1973, the newspaper adds.

It says that after ten years the Arab nation now stands bewildered and incapacitated, to witness a dear part of Lebanon fall under Zionist occupation while the Palestinians, along with the faithful Lebanese, are desperately resisting, in defence of every inch of Lebanese soil.

The newspaper wonders about the "curious Arab indecisiveness in confronting the new disaster which befalls them in south Lebanon. Hence King Hussein's recent call on the Arabs to rally in one unified rank to defend the Arab honour and Arab existence as well."

AL DUSTOUR observes: that cooperation and coordination between the Jordanian army and the Palestinian commandos proved its worth in defeating the invading force in the Karameh battle. This, it adds, reminds us of what is now taking place in south Lebanon and of Jordan's call, repeated over the past ten years, to build up the eastern front effectively so as to keep it organised and reinforce it with all Arab military and economic potential, on the basis that "our battle with the enemy is not yet over."

Instead of losing time, the Arabs should now respond to King Hussein's call for an Arab summit to adopt a unified strategy capable of working against the enemy, making use of the Karameh lesson which should always be remembered by all the Arabs, Al Dustour concludes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Jordan Times welcomes letters from its readers commenting on material published in the newspaper or on any matter of public interest. Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and preferably not longer than 300 words. They will be edited only for style and grammatical purposes, and letters longer than 300 words may be shortened at the editor's discretion.

Letters should be sent by mail to: the Editor, the Jordan Times, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.



Her Majesty the Queen Mother kisses a child at Um Al Hussein Orphanage where the children assembled to greet her at the start of Mother's Day celebrations under her patronage Tuesday. (JNA photo)

Mother's Day celebrated at Um Al Hussein Orphanage

AMMAN, March 21 (JNA). — Mother's Day celebrations were held today at Um Al Hussein Orphanage in Amman under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Zein, the Queen Mother. Her Highness Princess Basma, Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni and the wives of the prime minister and cabinet ministers attended the

celebration. After speeches delivered by the students on the occasion, the Queen Mother toured the orphanage and made a contribution of JD 1,000 to be distributed to the children. The minister of labour contributed JD 900 and Mrs. Mudar Badran donated JD 500 to the orphanage.

The five-star Sheraton Palace, now under construction, will be the tallest building in Amman

By Alan Martiny
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 21 — The Sawalha Brothers Tourist Hotels, owners of the Grand Palace Hotel, Sunday signed a 25-year contract with the Sheraton Corporation for the management of their new five-star delux hotel presently under construction in Amman.

Mr. Said H. Sawalha, a member of the Board of Directors of Sawalha Brothers told the Jordan Times today that they had originally planned to merely expand the Grand Palace Hotel. But with the growing demand for luxury hotel rooms they decided to construct a separate five-star hotel. The Grand Palace is a four-star hotel.

Mr. Sawalha said that feasibility studies convinced them that to have successful occupancy in a five-star hotel it was best to join one of the reputable international chains. "Since the Middle East in general does not have individual hotels linked together in one marketing and reservation system, we decided that the best thing would be to join an international chain," he said.

They had discussed the option with several different chains but found Sheraton to have the most progressive ideas about expanding in the Middle East. Sheraton already has several hotels operating in the Middle East and some under construction. Mr. Sawalha said they chose Sheraton because of its "excellent control systems on food and beverages, its aggressive sales techniques and advanced registration methods."

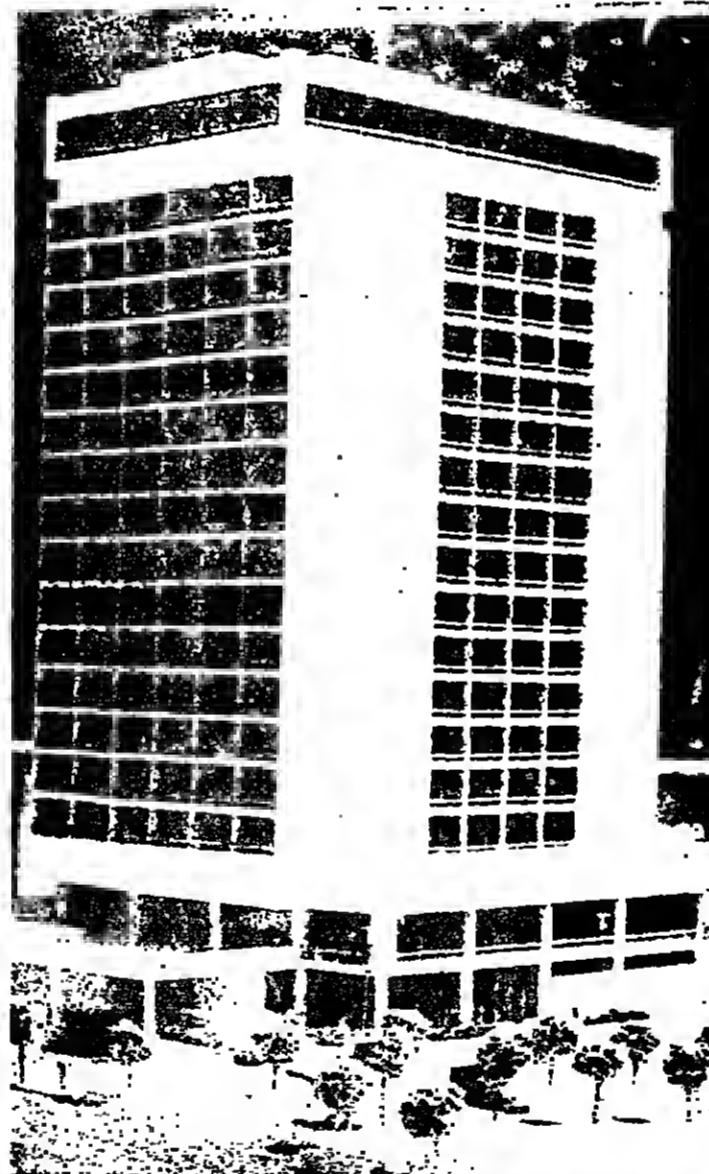
Sawalha Brothers decided to build the hotel about three years ago. The \$20 million cost was provided by loans from local and international banks. Cosgrove Architects, an American firm, made the initial design with Sigma Consulting Engineers, a Jordanian firm, doing the follow-up design. Morris Bailey is doing the interior design.

Modern Form Systems, a Jordanian construction firm, is building the hotel, works on which began in 1976. At present the first two floors above ground have been completed and the hotel is scheduled to be completed in June 1979.

The Sheraton Palace will be the tallest building in Amman. It will stand 22 stories high and consist of 300 rooms. The hotel will contain three restaurants, meeting rooms, a shopping arcade, a dinner-night club and a roof-top swimming pool. The swimming pool, Amman's first all-season pool, will be covered with a sliding transparent dome.

Under the new arrangement, once the hotel is completed, Sheraton will take full responsibility for management of the hotel.

It will initially provide foreign staff to help develop services to meet Sheraton's international standards while a local staff is trained in Sheraton's methods. According to the contract, Sheraton will receive a percentage of the hotel's net profit.



A scale model of the luxury Sheraton Palace Hotel scheduled for completion in June, 1979.

Economic and Business News

Jordan, Syria to tackle snags to economic integration

DAMASCUS, March 21 (JNA). — Jordan's Ambassador to Syria Nabih Al Nimir and Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Mohammad Al Imadi discussed here today trade relations between their two countries, and means to overcome difficulties impeding the implementation of a bilateral economic agreement. The two also discussed calling the joint Syrian-Jordanian economic and trade committee for a special meeting, and agreed to hold a symposium in Amman early next month on economic integration between the two countries.

Jordan, Iraq trade talks scheduled

AMMAN, March 21 (JNA). — Jordanian-Iraqi talks are expected to start here towards the end of this month to consider increasing trade cooperation between the two countries, and the difficulties obstructing the implementation of the existing trade protocol. The Iraqi delegation to the talks will be headed by the under-secretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Trade. The undersecretary of the Jordanian Ministry of Commerce and Industry will lead Jordan's team.

Minister of education explains

Revised curriculae, "life" classes inject a liberal note into Jordan's schools

By Ian Kellas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 21 — Freedom is the keynote of Jordan's new education policy. Minister of Education Dr. Abdul Salam Majali explained at an open question-and-answer session at the British Council last night. And this meant above all the freedom of the student, the minister continued, rather than just the freedom of the teacher.

The beginning of this academic year brought considerable changes in school syllabuses. For a start teaching hours were reduced by nearly 25 per cent. "The whole thing was built around the student," Dr. Majali said.

The fight against mechanisation

Freedom of course cannot be total. "Education is an interaction of minds between people" the minister said. And there must be "give and take". But a certain amount had been achieved to combat the mechanisation and systematisation of education in the country. The minister pointed out that two hours in the week were now turned over to "life" classes, in which the teacher was able to choose the programme, without being dictated to by a syllabus. He might take his pupils to have a look at a barber's shop for instance.

Teaching the parents

There was also concern, he said, that children are taught quite different things by their schools, by their families and by the radio and T.V. Integration of all this, however, was difficult to achieve. He hinted that the media could be more cooperative. Parent-teacher associations had been found not to work very well. Asked

provocatively whether it would not be more advisable to teach the parents, the minister replied that he agreed entirely. It was already open for them to sit for some school exams, he explained, and next year courses would be started for them.

Asked about the government's attitude towards private schools, Dr. Majali replied: "We encourage private education". He gave two reasons. Firstly freedom, and secondly the fact that private schools, which educate ten per cent of the total student body in Jordan, take a big load off government funds.

Equal education for both sexes?

In Jordan committed to equal education for both sexes? Dr. Majali said that there was "no difference between girls and boys" in the educational system. Girls accounted for about 45 per cent of the student body in Jordan — a figure, he said, which was comparable to the best in the world.

But he also expressed concern that while women hurried off to train as doctors and engineers, Jordan was left with an acute shortage of nurses. Women, he seemed to suggest, are able to do most jobs, but there are some which cannot be left to the men.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Comic Theatre

An Arabic adaptation of an American play, "Sudki Bey's Love" is showing every night at the Haya Arts Centre at 8:00 p.m. The play runs until next Thursday.

Detective Film

The next film in the detective series at the Goethe Institute is showing tonight at 8:00 p.m. This film is entitled "Ich Liebe Dich-Ich Töte Dich".

Painting Exhibition

Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran today opened the university's first painting exhibition by young student artist Tamim Sanjeh. On display at the university activity centre are 24 paintings depicting social and traditional life in Jordan.

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مکانات الصناعية

National News Roundup

King presides over celebrations of Al Hussein Ibn Ali Brigade

AMMAN, March 21 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces today presided over celebrations of the 21st anniversary of Al Hussein Ibn Ali Brigade, named after His Majesty's great grandfather.

Al Noor Institute for Blind celebrates Mother's Day

AMMAN, March 21 (JNA). — The Al Noor Institute for the Blind this evening held a ceremony at the Comprehensive School here on the occasion of Mother's Day. The ceremony was attended by His Highness Prince Raad Ibn Zeid, in his capacity as President of the Friendship Society for the Blind.

Arab students to come here for training in statistics

AMMAN, March 21 (JNA). — Director General of the Statistics Department Shuja' Al Assad returned to Amman from Baghdad today after participating in the meetings of the board of trustees of the Arab Institute for Statistical Research and Training. He said on arrival that the board has decided among other things to benefit from the facilities available at the Jordanian Institute for Statistical Training. The board will send 42 students from various Arab countries to the institute over the next three coming scholastic years. Mr. Al Assad said. The Baghdad-based Arab institute is a regional centre serving the Arab World with United Nations participation.

Jordan observes Karamah Day

AMMAN, March 21 (JNA). — Jordan today marked the tenth anniversary of the Karamah Battle. The Jordanian Armed Forces held a celebration on this occasion at the Karamah Martyrs Monument which was attended by Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker.

Jordan sends medical aid to Lebanon

AMMAN, March 21 (JNA). — The Jordan government today shipped a second consignment of medical equipment to victims of the Israeli aggression in south Lebanon. Sources at the Ministry of Health said the consignment consists of 12 blood units, and four truck-loads of medicine and first-aid equipment.

National Water Symposium hears four papers

AMMAN, March 21 (JNA). — The National Water Symposium resumed its activities today at the Palace of Culture under the chairmanship of His Highness Crown Prince Hassan. At today's session, the delegates discussed four working papers presented by the director general of the Jordanian Natural Resources Authority, a British expert, the regional adviser to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation and a joint paper by a group of world specialists. The papers generally outlined the different universally adopted policies in the administration of water resources.

Postal services with Kuwait discussed

AMMAN, March 21 (JNA). — Minister of Communication Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh today received the Kuwaiti ambassador to Jordan. They discussed means of promoting and expanding postal and telecommunication services between Kuwait and Jordan.

Sports agreement signed with USSR

AMMAN, March 21 (JNA). — Jordan and the Soviet Union signed an agreement here today for bilateral cooperation in the field of sports. Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf signed for Jordan and the Soviet ambassador to Jordan signed for his government. The agreement aims at developing bilateral sports and cultural cooperation through the exchange of delegations, publications and staging sporting events. The agreement also provides for cooperation in establishing the Jordanian sports college.

Pakistani universities team arrives

AMMAN, March 21 (JNA). — A Pakistani Universities delegation headed by the Secretary of the Pakistani Ministry of Education arrived here this morning on a nine-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of the University of Jordan. The delegation will discuss with officials of the University of Jordan ways of strengthening cooperation between the University and the Pakistani ones. The delegation will also discuss with the Jordanian Ministry of Education means of promoting educational and cultural cooperation between the two countries. A working programme has been arranged for the Pakistani delegation including meetings with high officials and visits to the Yarmouk University, scientific and educational institutions as well as tourist and historical sites in the Kingdom. The delegation consists of chancellors of eight Pakistani universities.

Yarmouk U. to issue magazine

IRBID, March 21 (JNA). — Yarmouk University is to issue a scientific and educational magazine soon, a source at the university's public relations department said yesterday.

Irbid, North Jordan Valley

municipal symposium opens

NORTH SHUNEH, March 21

The Irbid Governorate and the North Jordan Valley District municipal symposium opened at the North Shuneh municipality this morning. Under-Secretary of the Municipal and Rural Affairs Ministry Ibrahim Al 'Utar told representatives of 23 municipalities and rural councils taking part in the two-day symposium that the first Irbid municipalities symposium held under the chairmanship of His Highness Crown Prince Hassan last September had been a new starting point in the ministry's plan to develop towns and villages and initiate the establishment of joint services council to serve groups of neighbouring villages. Later the participants debated a joint working paper for the Irbid Governorate and the North Jordan Valley municipalities submitted by the Irbid Governorate. It deals with matters related to municipal elections, organisation, financing, as well as equipment for the municipalities and inspection and supervisory duties.

It is estimated that the U.S. trade deficit will be around \$27 billion on average this year. The figure, by U.S. standards, is not actually that big.

For instance, the U.S., as a Jordanian expert puts it, can impose a five to seven dollar surcharge on every imported barrel of oil and thus can solve the problem of the government's deficit, and may even ameliorate to a great extent the trade deficit as well.

Yet, the Americans do not like such solutions as some prominent congressmen have made clear.

On the other hand, let us look at the fluctuating fortunes of the French franc. Speculation that the leftists might take over was the main cause in the pre-elections drop in the value of the franc.

Americans must step in to do something to maintain the dollar's value. Such action should extend a little further than mere interference by the central banks of Germany and Japan.

Econoscope

By Jawad Ahmad

The funny act of currencies

I asked an American friend about his expectations for the dollar. Would it keep on suffering, or would it have a chance of picking up?

His answer was mixed. Had the coal miners' strike been averted, the U.S. balance of trade would have improved. Obviously, a coal strike put in jeopardy President Carter's energy strategy. It also helped boost U.S. imports of oil.

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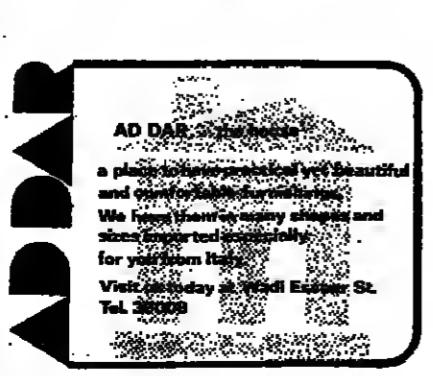
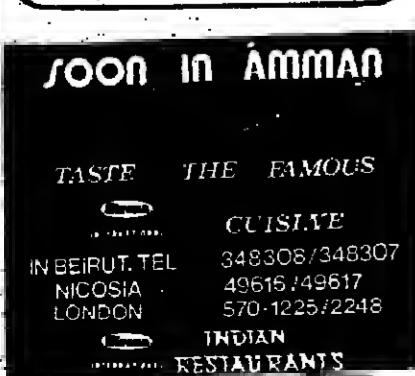
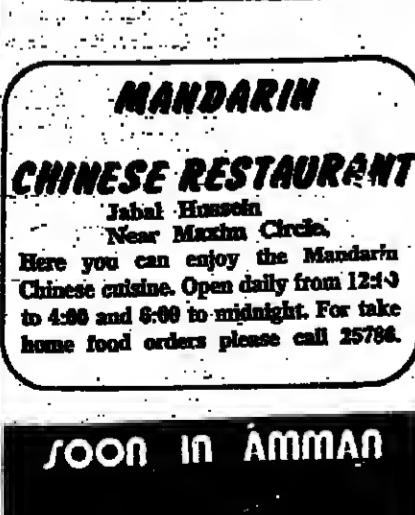
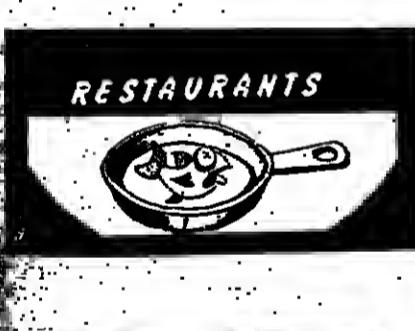
Amman Stock Exchange Report

NAME OF COMPANY	PAR value	Volume traded in JD	Opening price	Highest selling price	Lowest selling price	Closing price	Last buying bid	Last selling offer
* Jordan-Gulf Bank	JD 1.000	137	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.100	1.150
* Jordan-Kuwait Bank	JD 1.000	1,900	1.500	1.550	1.500	1.550	—	—
* Petra Bank	JD 10.000	102	—	10.100	10.100	10.100	—	—
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1.000	3,197	1.250	1.250	1.200	1.200	1.200	1.250
Jordan Ceramic Industries	JD 1.000	142	1.000	0.950	0.950	0.950	—	0.900
* Jordan Glass Factories	JD 1.000	950	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	—	0.950
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5.000	229	6.550	6.550	6.550	6.550	6.550	6.600

Total volume traded Tuesday, March 21 : JD 6,657

* 50 per cent of share capital paid.

AMMAN MARKET PLACE



Economically, Malta considers itself part of the Arab World, says Premier Mintoff

ABU DHABI, March 21 (R). — Malta considers itself part of the Arab World and a bridge to Europe, visiting Prime Minister Dom Mintoff said in an interview on Radio Abu Dhabi today. "The Arab League has decided to consider Malta as part of the Arab World as far as development projects are concerned," Mr. Mintoff added.

He said his talks here yesterday with United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan included a proposed loan to finance a harbour and other development projects in Malta.

Mr. Mintoff did not mention the amount involved, but UAE officials said a \$2 million dirham (\$7 million) loan would be extended to Malta to help it carry out the \$80 million

harbour project.

The loan, from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, will be repaid over 13 years after a three-year grace period at an annual interest rate of three per cent, they added.

The Maltese leader was due to leave for Kuwait later today at the end of a two-day visit to the UAE.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia,

which is the third and last stop in a tour by Mr. Mintoff, have also agreed in principle to help finance the harbour project.

In Riyadh, officials said today the Saudi Development Fund had decided to lend Malta \$20 million for the harbour project. They said the loan agreement would be signed during Mr. Mintoff's visit to Saudi Arabia.

Turkey to sign \$ 450 million loan agreement with IMF

ANKARA, March 21 (R). — The Turkish finance minister left for Washington today to sign an agreement for a \$450 million loan from the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund (IMF), Finance Ministry officials said.

Turkey started negotiations with the IMF more than two weeks ago to get assistance for the country's ailing economy, hard hit by a shortage of foreign exchange.

Earlier this month the government devalued the Turkish lira by 30 per cent against the dollar, and announced measures to close last year's trade gap of \$4 million which, informed sources said, were in line with the IMF's conditions for extension of credits.

The loan will also clear the way for foreign private banks to re-open credits to Turkey, which was unable to pay for imports worth \$2.5 billion last year, and is due to repay \$1.3 billion of short-term foreign credits this year.

Eta Ursae Majoris in the handle of the Big Dipper is the first star photographed by the International Ultraviolet Explorer, launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida in late January. The image was built up from digital data received at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland. IUE is designed to study celestial objects including supernovas, quasars and black-holes, and is the first to return such pictures from geosynchronous orbit. Some 200 scientists in 17 countries are to use the spacecraft much like a ground-based telescope. (IPS photo)

Thirteen-member Arab Mining Co. to buy in Mauritania, Morocco

AMMAN, March 21 (R). — The Arab Mining Company has decided to buy interests in Mauritania and Morocco worth at least \$40 million, the head of the company said today.

Mr. Thabet Al Taher, Director General of the pan-Arab company which was established two years ago, told reporters it would invest \$28 million in an open cast iron mine

project in Mauritania.

Talks with Mauritanian officials would begin soon on details of an agreement on the company's investment in the mine for which annual output was estimated at 14 million tons, Mr. Al Taher said.

The company has also decided to buy 25 per cent of a copper mining project in Morocco and would soon approach Mor-

occoan officials to draw up an agreement.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq, each hold a 16.66 per cent share in the 13-nation Arab Mining Company.

Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriya each hold 8.33 per cent.

The remainder is shared equally by Jordan, Sudan, Syria, Somalia, Morocco and North and South Yemen.

By Norris Willatt

LUGANO, (F.T.) — In the ordinary way, the mints of the world don't make news; they just go on year after year, coining money, much or little according to the policies of their national government, for which they have no responsibility. But now the Italian Mint, the Zecca, has become the centre of a commotion: It is accused of encouraging speculation, through its policy of giving away coin samples. The mint is even trying to make political capital out of the affair.

The ancient tradition

The background to the fuss

is as follows: At the end of last year, the Italian authorities decided to issue a new denomination of coinage, with a face value of 200 lire (about 12 pence at the current rate of exchange). The mint, as always, before proceeding to the mass production of coinage for legal tender, minted samples. Following ancient custom, it distributed these as a Christmas present among its own 400 or so employees, and also to a limited number of prominent persons, including Members of Parliament and government ministers.

Because of their scarcity, these coins bearing the legend "sample" immediately acquired a premium value, especially to coin collectors. Some of the recipients were able to

turn a handsome overnight profit by inserting advertisements in the newspapers advertising them for sale.

Another bone of contention

As a result, the 200 lire coins, of which only 700 samples were minted, were being quoted shortly after issue by coin dealers at between 230,000 and 250,000 lire (£145-£155) a piece. Given the recent tensions on the Italian political scene, with the left as a whole hungry for power and the Communists demanding a place in the government, even this minor speculation became a stick with which to beat the middle-of-the-road Christian Democrats who have governed Italy since the end of the Second World War.

For example, the Socialist Secretary of the Commission on Finance of the Lower House of the Italian Parliament Signor Francesco Colucci, has declared the custom of distributing sample coins to a privileged few "absolutely inadmissible". He has called for an end to the practice, either by destroying the samples or placing them in the custody of the state. He is also sponsoring legislation to subject the Zecca to the supervision of the Central Bank of Italy, instead of its functioning as an independent agency.

Reportedly, in times past coins were more widely distributed than at the present time, with every government minister and all members of both the House and the Senate of Parliament getting their free sample. In more recent years, the list of beneficiaries has been somewhat reduced, to a select few named by the Treasury minister.

Opposition likely

Nevertheless, all the employees of the mint itself have continued to get the privileged gift, which they have come to look on as a right; and which, if the recipient chooses to sell to a collector, can be

raising the earth levels and changing the shore line by placing fill material. The volume of filling required is dictated by the need to raise the ground floors of the buildings, as well as the arena, car parks, and major access ways, well above high water levels. In addition to site filling, the depth of water within the bay must be increased substantially for swimming and water sports activities, by dredging.

Pleasant surroundings

This basic work will be followed by landscaping, tree planting, land drainage and irrigation installations aimed at maintaining the best possible outdoor environment.

Plans already made for the indoor sports and cultural buildings have a restrained elegance expressed in three colours — black, beige and palomino. These are used in changing sequences in ebony doors, stained woodwork, carpeting, and in artificial suede ceiling and wall panels.

This colour mix is offset by abundant green foliage in fixed planters, and extensive use is made of tinted glass in doors and panoramic windows.

In the auditorium the main feature is Burma teak. The banqueting hall has a coffered ceiling of white aluminium plank. Walls are decorated with bronze aluminium purpose made screens, which contrast with seating recesses rendered with a pale cream textured finish.

Similar treatment is planned for the ten-pin bowling hall. The cultural centre's walls and floors are faced with white and mid-brown marble.

Islamic arches

The form of the buildings was generated by the contours of the existing coastline and a requirement that the buildings should have a strong Islamic character. For this reason the designers have made the Islamic arch the dominant feature.

In situ reinforced concrete construction generally has been adopted as being the most suitable solution for the layout and building form, providing both flexibility and economy. The only departure from this concept occurs where long span roofs are required, in the auditorium and sports hall areas, for example, structural steelwork construction has been selected.

Site preparation will involve

U.N. survey reports smaller deficit in East trade with West

GENEVA, March 21 (AP). — Tightened import policies helped the Soviet Union and its East European allies cut their aggregate deficit in East-West trade sharply by \$2.5 billion last year, a United Nations survey said today.

The aggregate deficit fell from \$7.5 billion to \$5 billion last year, it said, but Eastern debts to the West continued to increase to as much as \$40 billion.

The overall performance of East-West trade was described as "sluggish" because the slow economic recovery in the West limited the growth of Eastern exports to that capitalist area to a mere three per cent, according to the survey. Imports were expected to decline by about five per cent, with estimates based on the figures for the first nine months.

The slow increase in exports limited the communist countries' scope of financing imports and also to service debts to the West, the survey noted. The net total amount of these debts, estimated at \$32 to \$35 billion at the end of 1976, may have gone up to \$37 to \$40 billion in 1977, it said. This compares with a combined value of \$28 to \$29 billion for all Eastern exports — including services — to the West in 1977.

The figures and comments were included in a 210-page survey prepared by the UN Economic Commission for Europe. Approved by all East European member governments, it gives an annual official insight into trends and prospects, ranging from energy consumption to price hikes.

Imports from the West were restrained by postponing projects and eliminating non-essentials. As a result, part of domestic demand for industrial materials and consumer goods was not fully satisfied.

The slow increase in exports

explained the survey. It said this tight policy is likely to continue in 1978.

It was simply doing its proper job of minting coins on orders from the authorities. In fact it was performing a badly needed service in helping alleviate the acute shortage of metal money from which the country has been suffering for years.

Visitors to Italy in recent times have also suffered from the inconvenience of getting such items as postage stamps, bus tickets, telephone tokens, even sweets, as small change for banknotes presented to make purchases. Small denomination coins with a value of 50 and 100 lire (about 3 and 6 pence) have almost vanished, especially in the big cities where they are most in demand.

In the past few years, these have even taken to issuing pieces of paper, popularly known as "mini-cheques", with a face value of from 100 to 500 lire (6-30 pence), which became worth 300,000 lire (about £185).

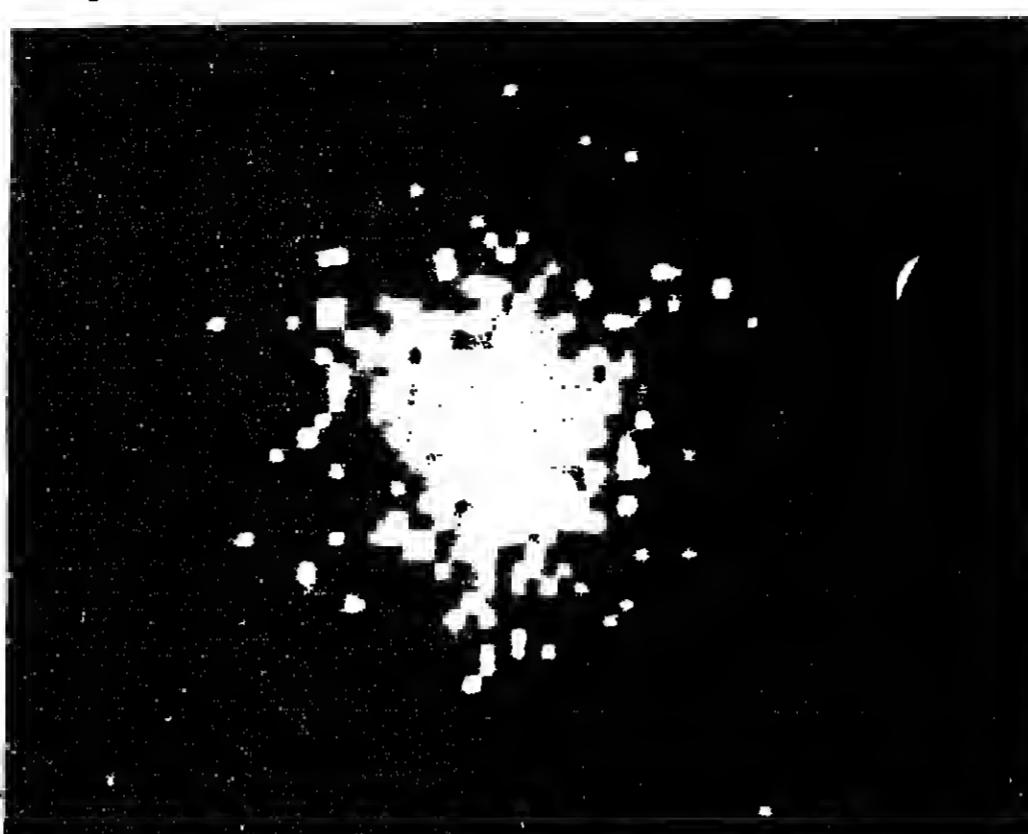
As with stamps, too, coins marred by some irregularity became prized items among collectors. An Italian example is the 500 lire (30 pence) coin issued bearing the image of the three ships with which Christopher Columbus discovered America. The one thousand samples had the flags round the wrong way. The recipients enjoyed a bonanza as soon as the news reached the coin collectors.

Their place is being taken by the new coinage, which the Zecca is able to turn out in sufficient volume because of the installation of new machinery; the old equipment simply didn't work fast enough. It's a reminder of the ravages which inflation has wrought in the Italian economy that the lowest denomination nowadays is 200 lire.

-- Financial Times

News-Features

Spacecraft photos Big Dipper star



Eta Ursae Majoris in the handle of the Big Dipper is the first star photographed by the International Ultraviolet Explorer, launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida in late January. The image was built up from digital data received at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland. IUE is designed to study celestial objects including supernovas, quasars and black-holes, and is the first to return such pictures from geosynchronous orbit. Some 200 scientists in 17 countries are to use the spacecraft much like a ground-based telescope. (IPS photo)

Italy's inflation is a big problem but is it sensible to blame the mint?

By Norris Willatt

LUGANO, (F.T.) — In the ordinary way, the mints of the world don't make news; they just go on year after year, coining money, much or little according to the policies of their national government, for which they have no responsibility. But now the Italian Mint, the Zecca, has become the centre of a commotion: It is accused of encouraging speculation, through its policy of giving away coin samples. The mint is even trying to make political capital out of the affair.

The ancient tradition

The background to the fuss

is as follows: At the end of last year, the Italian authorities decided to issue a new denomination of coinage, with a face value of 200 lire (about 12 pence at the current rate of exchange). The mint, as always, before proceeding to the mass production of coinage for legal tender, minted samples. Following ancient custom, it distributed these as a Christmas present among its own 400 or so employees, and also to a limited number of prominent persons, including Members of Parliament and government ministers.

Because of their scarcity, these coins bearing the legend "sample" immediately acquired a premium value, especially to coin collectors. Some of the recipients were able to

turn a handsome overnight profit by inserting advertisements in the newspapers advertising them for sale.

Another bone of contention

As a result, the 200 lire coins, of which only 700 samples were minted, were being quoted shortly after issue by coin dealers at between 230,000 and 250,000 lire (£145-£155) a piece. Given the recent tensions on the Italian political scene, with the left as a whole hungry for power and the Communists demanding a place in the government, even this minor speculation became a stick with which to beat the middle-of-the-road Christian Democrats who have governed Italy since the end of the Second World War.

For example, the Socialist Secretary of the Commission on Finance of the Lower House of the Italian Parliament Signor Francesco Colucci, has declared the custom of distributing sample coins to a privileged few "absolutely inadmissible". He has called for an end to the practice, either by destroying the samples or placing them in the custody of the state. He is also sponsoring legislation to subject the Zecca to the supervision of the Central Bank of Italy, instead of its functioning as an independent agency.

Reportedly, in times past coins were more widely distributed than at the present time, with every government minister and all members of both the House and the Senate of Parliament getting their free sample. In more recent years, the list of beneficiaries has been somewhat reduced, to a select few named by the Treasury minister.

Opposition likely

Nevertheless, all the employees of the mint itself have continued to get the privileged gift, which they have come to look on as a right; and which, if the recipient chooses to sell to a collector, can be

The Italian Mint itself appears to be the quite innocent cause of the to-do which has brought it into the limelight.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, (R). — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of interbank trading on the London foreign exchange market last night. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	1.897/378	U.S. dollars
One dollar	2.0473/68	West German marks
	2.1915/35	Dutch guilders
	1.9380/9410	Swiss francs
	31.86/89	Belgian francs
	4.6750/6825	French francs
	856.00/630	Italian lire
	230.95/231.10	Japanese yen
	4.6180/90	Swedish crowns
	5.3560/60	Norwegian crowns
	5.6320/35	Danish crowns

Stock prices moved ahead Tuesday. But overall activity was quiet, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was up 5.4 to 464.0. South African gold shares lost up to 1/4 points. The fall was triggered by fears the U.S. Treasury may sell gold as part of a package to defend the dollar. Government bonds finished 1/4 point higher. Leading industrials closed a few pence up.

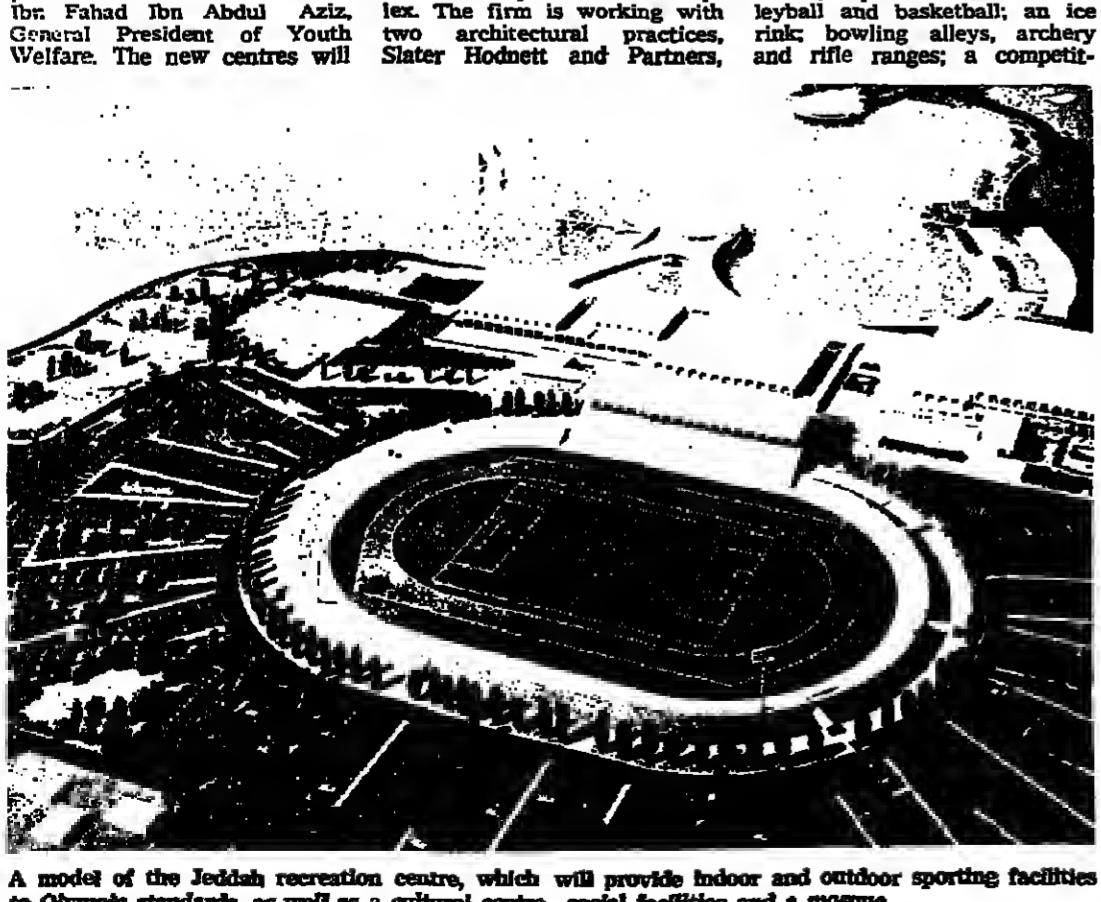
Australian stocks firmed while U.S. and Canadian stocks were narrowly mixed.

Unilever was among the higher gainers being up 10p at 488p while Beecham finished 8p higher at 631. ICI and Glaxo each put on 7p to 358 and 355 respectively.

Metal Box and Tube Investments at 304 and 374 added 4p apiece. GKN, Hawker, EMI, Lucas and GEC firmed between 3p and 6p.

Among oils B.P. rose 8p to 82 and Shell advanced 12p to 525. Banks held steady. Imps lost a penny to 75p following the chairman's warning of lower interim profits.

Price of gold closed in London Tuesday at \$177.80/oz.



A model of the Jeddah recreation centre, which will provide indoor and outdoor sporting facilities to Olympic standards, as well as a cultural centre, social facilities and a mosque.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

	Jordanian fils Buying/Selling
U.S. dollar	310.00/312.00
U.K. sterling	591.00/595.00
W. German mark	15

Smith, 3 moderates sworn in as Rhodesia's transitional cabinet

SALISBURY, March 21 (Agencies). — Premier Ian Smith and three black nationalist leaders today were formally sworn in to office to head a transitional government designed to lead Rhodesia to one-man, one-vote elections, black rule and an end to almost a century of white supremacy. Mr. Smith and the three blacks -- Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole and Chief Jeremiah Chirau -- will form a Supreme Executive Council in the new administration. The council's first meeting was to be held today.

The swearing-in ceremony took place at the prime official residence Independence House -- so named after Rhodesia's Unilateral Declaration of Independence from Britain in 1965.

The four leaders were sworn in one after the other in the dining hall by the Suffragan Anglican Bishop of Mashonaland, the Rt. Rev. Patrick Murindagomo.

The nationalists had insisted on a neutral to officiate over the ceremony, rather than, as usual with new ministers, the white Rhodesian President Mr. John Wrathall. The bishop is black.

The four swore loyalty to the State of Rhodesia, regarded internationally as a rebel British colony.

Mr. Sithole, who told reporters outside the residence that the ceremony was good, solemn and serious, later told Reuters: "We couldn't swear to the state of Zimbabwe because it is not yet in being."

"We'll do that after the elections when Zimbabwe is born on Dec. 31."

Asked if there might be criticism of the blacks for allowing the ceremony to be held in the residence of a man the international community regards as a rebel, he retorted: "Maybe. But after all the whole country is under an illegal regime. We must be practical."

"I think it is a miracle that this has taken place at all."

Once the full transitional government has been set up, it will be commissioned with the jobs of drafting the country's first one-man, one-vote constitution and organising its first democratic elections.

A Voice of Vietnam broadcast from Hanoi said two Cambodian infantry divisions with full naval support landed to attack Vietnam's southwest sea-coast town of Ha Tien March 13-15 and 70 Cambodian soldiers were put out of action

on March 14 in one area near the town.

The broadcast said on March 15 two Cambodian battalions struck into Song Be Province north of Ho Chi Minh City "committing various crimes" against civilians.

Official Vietnamese media yesterday described grisly atrocities committed against men, women and children in three villages in the province last Saturday. The latest report appeared to site the same series of incidents.

Viets say Cambodians launched new attacks

BANGKOK, March 21 (AP). — Vietnam today reported Cambodian naval and ground attacks into its territory and claimed hundreds of the invaders were killed north of Ho Chi Minh City and in the Mekong River Delta.

A Voice of Vietnam broadcast from Hanoi said two Cambodian infantry divisions with full naval support landed to attack Vietnam's southwest sea-coast town of Ha Tien March 13-15 and 70 Cambodian soldiers were put out of action

First woman to sail single-handed round the world is Polish

WARSAW, March 21 (R). — After almost two years, a Polish yachtswoman has become the first woman to sail single-handed around the world, the news agency PAP reported today.

Mrs. Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz, 41, a ship-building engineer, completed her circuit of the globe in two days short of two years aboard the 9.5 metre yacht Nazurek, PAP said.

She has achieved the feat ahead of Britain's Naomi James and Brigitte Oudry of France who are both making single-handed bids.

Mrs. Liskiewicz was expected in Las Palmas in the Canary Islands in three or four weeks. "I am very happy indeed," she told PAP by radio. "There were times when I thought I would never manage it, but now it is all over with."

She was feared missing in the Atlantic for more than a month until she made contact with a Polish Antarctic station on March 3 or 4. Mrs. Liskiewicz left Cape Town on the final leg of her voyage on Feb. 5.

Fire follows film on Israeli raid

ZURICH, March 21 (R). — A second Swiss cinema has been hit by fire during the showing of a film on Israel's 1976 raid on Entebbe Airport -- and this time the blaze was accompanied by a hoax telephone call saying a bomb had been planted in the building.

All 170 people who were watching the film Operation Thunderbolt at a Zurich cinema last night were evacuated safely.

Police said they did not exclude the possibility that last night's fire was linked with the first blaze at a cinema in Berne last Friday night in which nearly \$160,000 worth of damage was caused.

Somalia walks a cautious independent line following its defeat in the Ogaden

By David Storey

MOGADISHU, March 19 (R). — Somalia is showing great caution as it edges through the labyrinth of big-power politics towards a new international position after its defeat in the Ogaden war.

President Mohammad Siad Barre, confronted by overtures from East and West, from Arabs and non-aligned states, has so far avoided committing his Moslem country of nomads and traders to any one political camp.

Saturday an American delegation arrived to discuss the whole range of U.S.-Somali relations at the end of a week when the Soviet ambassador called on the president several times, according to diplomatic sources. Yugoslavia's Foreign Minister Milos Minic came to present the views of the non-aligned movement.

In this socialist country where all major decisions are handled by the Central Committee of the ruling Revolutionary Socialist Party, keeping secrets about government policy is not a great problem.

Somali withdrawal

But after it became clear that Somali forces had no chance of standing up to Ethiopia's Cuban and Russian-backed onslaught in the Ogaden, the government announced that regular Somali troops

would be withdrawn from Ogaden. Five days later, it announced that they had been pulled out.

This had been demanded by both Moscow and Washington as a first step towards bringing some form of settlement to the Horn of Africa. But the move gave no cue as to where, if anywhere, the Somalis were about to jump.

Informed sources in Mogadishu believe it was proposals from Washington which had the greatest influence in persuading President Siad Barre to take the withdrawal decision, praised by the U.S. State Department as a statesman-like approach.

When the U.S. delegation arrived last Saturday its leader, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Richard Moore, said President Carter was confident that cooperation between Washington and Mogadishu would bring peace and stability to the region.

He added that Mr. Carter had a profound respect for the Somali leader and people.

But there has been no concrete indication whether Somalia has declared itself willing to bow to Washington's principal condition for military and economic aid -- that Somalia should make a renewed commitment not to disown our international boundaries with either Ethiopia or Kenya.

They are also arguing that they are the only ones in a position to force Addis Ababa to allow some autonomy to the ethnic Somalis in the Ogaden.

Keen on non-alignment

This, the diplomats say, is why Somalia is keen to maintain a free hand in its dealings with the Soviet Union.

The visit last week by Yugoslavia's Minic was aimed

specifically at presenting the advantages of non-alignment to the Somali leader. There is speculation in diplomatic circles in Mogadishu that the Americans too would like to see Somalia adopt a fairly independent line.

When he left, Mr. Minic was quoted by the Somali news agency Sonna as saying: "I am confident that the OAU (Organisation of African Unity) is capable of working out a just and lasting solution to the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia."

Diplomatic sources also pointed out the emphasis put by the U.S. on the idea of non-intervention in African affairs.

They say Washington is willing to give President Siad Barre commitments to help rebuild the army after the eight-month war and to aid Somalia's economic development, hit by the termination of the big Soviet presence last November.

If at the same time Washington encouraged Somalia's political independence, diplomats believe this would be particularly welcomed by the conservative Arab states, whose influence and interest in Somalia is great.

The Arabs, particularly Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Egypt, are extremely worried about a possible spread of Soviet influence in East Africa and the Middle East, possibly radiating from Marxist Ethiopia.

... after my own heart



Former United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (left) is all smiles as he welcomes Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to New York on Monday. Mr. Begin, whose army is carrying out an invasion of south Lebanon, is currently on a visit to the U.S. (AP wirephoto)

Pakistan amnesties 900 rebels arrested during Bhutto's rule

QUETTA, Pakistan, March 21 (Agencies). — More than 900 people detained during a rebellion in Pakistan's Baluchistan Province five years ago have been released under a general amnesty, the army regime announced here.

Maj.-Gen. Ghulam Muhammad, Provincial Martial Law Administrator, told a press co-

nference last night the army would complete its withdrawal from the interior by the end of next month.

The army has been deployed in the province -- the largest in size but smallest in population -- since tribesmen took to the hills in the 1973 rebellion.

The trouble erupted after former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto sacked the provincial government of Aitzaz ul-Mengal, whose National Awami Party was held to be responsible for sabotage and subversion and accused of working for the province's ultimate secession from Pakistan.

Sardar Mengal was among provincial and party leaders amnestied last December after spending 20 months on trial in Hyderabad on charges of sedition.

Army ruler Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq stopped the trial, denouncing it as "90 per cent politically motivated."

Gen. Zia, who ousted Mr. Bhutto in a coup last July, has called on tribesmen to return from the hills to join in reconstruction and announced crash development programmes for

the province, the most backward in Pakistan.

But he said recently there must be some reciprocity and positive response, with tribesmen forgetting past bitterness.

Meanwhile, Neighboring India's reaction to the death sentence handed former Prime Minister Bhutto ranged from spirited protests in Kashmir to an editor as saying Bhutto had a fair trial.

Students in Srinagar, a major city in Kashmir where demonstrations have continued since Saturday burned effigies of Gen. Zia and U.S. President Carter, and shouted slogans accusing Washington of collusion in the case against Mr. Bhutto.

The 50-year-old Bhutto, was sentenced last Saturday to hang for the 1974 murder of a political rival's father.

In a speech before the upper house of parliament, a leader of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's opposition party urged that the Indian government do what it can to save Mr. Bhutto's life. Other speakers questioned whether it would be proper for India to take an official stand.

World News Briefs

Rasque organisation outlines programme

BILBAO, Spain March 21 (AP). — The Basque separatist organisation ETA, has said it will only stop anti-government action when Spain's Basque country becomes a socialist and independent state. ETA, which stands for Basque land and liberty, made its goals known in a report published yesterday by *Hoja del Lunes*, Bilbao's only morning newspaper. The organisation first appeared under the late right-wing chief of state Gen. Francisco Franco and in 15 years has been blamed for the deaths of more than 100 policemen and civilians and a number of political kidnappings. ETA said its goals include "destruction of a middle class state and its replacement by a state of workers. An independent and socialist state represents for us the only possible framework for exercise of sovereignty by the Basque people." ETA took responsibility for the bombing on Friday which killed two workers and injured ten at a nuclear energy plant under construction at Bilbao.

Arab League anniversary party cancelled

NAIROBI, Kenya March 21 (AP). — A party to mark the 33rd anniversary of the founding of the League of Arab States has been cancelled because of Israel's invasion of south Lebanon. It was to have been held here tomorrow. Arab League Ambassador Na'im Kaddah said yesterday that the cancellation was regretted "but is in keeping with the way we feel about the invasion."

Taiwan elects President

TAIPEI, March 21 (AP). — Mr. Chiang Ching-kuo was elected President of Taiwan almost unanimously yesterday, succeeding his father, the late Gen. Chiang Kai-shek, who held the post for almost three decades.

Bahrain has English-language newspaper

BAHRAIN, March 21 (R). — Bahrain's first English-language daily newspaper, the Gulf Daily News, appeared here today. The 12-page tabloid newspaper is published by Dar Al-Khabar Al-Khalieej, which already produces Bahrain's only Arab-language daily, Al-Khabar Al-Khalieej.

Chinese Wall under repair

BELGRADE, March 21 (AP). — The Chinese Wall, one of the biggest achievements in the history of construction, is undergoing serious repairs for the first time in almost 2,300 years. The Yugoslav Tanjug news agency reported yesterday from Peking. Tanjug said masons, under the supervision of experts, are working on repair of the main entrance gate of the wall. A group of foreign tourists who came to the wall on Sunday saw masons working on the gate with a sizeable part of the wall on the left and right side of the gate already repaired with new stone blocks, Tanjug said. Tanjug said that although there was no official explanation for the work it was believed that the affected gate and walls were weakened and threatened to crumble. This, Tanjug said, might cause the gate to collapse and injure visitors.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TREXE

□ □ □ □

DYNAD

□ □ □ □

ILDUIQ

□ □ □ □

YARREL

□ □ □ □

WHAT DO YOU HAVE WHEN YOU HIT YOUR CAR WITH AN AX?



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "AN" □ □ - □ - □ - □ - □ - □

Yesterday's Jumble: ROBOT LOUSE FACIAL MODIFY Answer: What the angry astronaut did—BLASTED OFF

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS	27. incorporated
1. Seizure	28. Emblem of morning
5. Corruption	29. Traffic tickets
12. Qualified	30. Football position abbr.
13. Advent	31. Color
14. Danish fjord	32. Musical composition in alloys
15. Not at all	33. Dry
17. Seaweed	34. Enthusiast
18. Neckline shape	35. Singing syllable
19. Covey	36. Probationer
21. French article	39. Cereal grass
22. Public carrier	40. Remainder abbr.
24. Emanation	41. Stake
25. Counter	42. Jacks or better
26. Tiny	43. Sow



Par time 25 minutes AP Newsfeatures 3/15 41. Equally

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

DOWN

- 5. Curse
- 6. Cunning
- 7. Cattle herder
- 8. Capital of Gard, France
- 9. Bacchantean cry
- 10. Juan
- 11. Foxy
- 12. Sacred chest
- 13. Edible tuber
- 20. California Army post
- 21. Mathematical rule
- 22. Control
- 23. Provided with new seats
- 25. Foundation
- 26. Joker
- 27. Decipher
- 28. Cask
- 29. Copal
- 32. Remote
- 33. Six